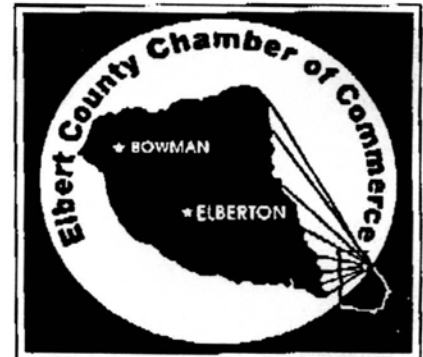


Elbert County Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

Post Office Box 537 • Elberton, Georgia 30635
Telephone (706) 283-5651 • Fax: (706) 283-5722
E-mail: chamber@elbertga.com • Web site: www.elbertga.com



October 20, 2006

Chairman Kevin Martin
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear FCC Commissioners:

Our Chamber of Commerce in Elberton, Georgia has become very interested in many of the things being said about the AT&T-BellSouth merger. We have learned of the merger's broadband details, especially as they relate to our generally rural county.

The commitments that AT&T recently announced for much greater broadband affordability and availability would be especially beneficial to our residents in Elbert County. Today, approximately 30% of our residents have no access to broadband service of any type. Approval of the merger will address this critical need by offering inexpensive and widely available service.

It is my understanding that AT&T has proposed to the Commission a commitment to provide its dial access customers a free upgrade to DSL, including a free modem after the merger closing. I also understand the company has offered to reduce the price of residential broadband DSL to \$10 per month and to deliver broadband to all residential units in its combined territory, including lower-income and rural areas. These commitments will help drive high-speed broadband usage and help close the digital divide in Elbert County between rich and poor, urban and rural.

I urge the Commission to approve the merger of AT&T and BellSouth promptly so that consumers can benefit as soon as possible from the broadband provisions this merger offers.

Sincerely,

Jim Lloyd
Chairman - Elbert County Chamber of Commerce

cc: Marlene Dortch, Commission Secretary
WC Docket No. 06-74

"Granite Capital of the World"
Home of the Richard B. Russell Hydroelectric Dam and Recreational Reservoir